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OTIS TUFTON MASON. †

ON November 5, 1908, died Otis Tufton Mason, Head Curator of Anthropology at the U. S. National Museum, one of the foremost representatives of ethnological science in America. During the years when anthropological research was first organized under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution, Mason contributed a large share to the activity of the small groups of workers assembled in Washington. Through his wide knowledge, attained by extensive reading, by constant contact with the large and varied collections of the National Museum, and by intimate intercourse with the many students who visit Washington, he was able to exert a most wholesome influence upon the development of anthropology. His influence was the more far-reaching, since through the charming simplicity of his manner, his unassuming bearing, and his sympathetic mind he made friends everywhere. Thus he has done much to stimulate anthropological interests. His own work lay largely in the study of the development of human industries, and he has contributed extensively to our knowledge of the manufactures of the North American Indians. The general course of development of human invention was a subject dear to his heart, and we owe to him the pleasing and attractive books, "Origin of Invention" and "Woman's Share in Primitive Culture," which contain not only many novel and important ideas, but which also reveal to the reader the author in the whole amiable charm of his personality. Those who had the privilege of knowing him will miss him sadly. His works assure to him a permanent place in the history of anthropology.

Franz Boas.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

ITEMS OF FRENCH-CANADIAN FOLK-LORE, ESSEX CO., ONTARIO. — The following items were communicated to me by Mr. J. C. Day, Toronto.

1. Two lovers will not agree after they are married, if they both wipe their face on the same towel.

2. The color of a spider spinning down in front of you, or alighting on your person, will indicate the color of your new hat or suit of clothes.

3. It is unlucky to sit at a table beneath a crack in the ceiling.

4. If a hearse with the corpse covers the ground twice in going to the church and graveyard, there will be another death in the family before the year is out.

5. To avert misfortune, after going out and coming back for something you have forgotten, sit down a few minutes.

6. When a sower, in sowing grain, leaves a coffin-shaped piece of land unsowed, it portends death to some member of his family.

7. News will come from the direction in which a dreaming dog points its nose.

8. To cure toothache a piece of a snake's slough is rolled up into a ball and placed in the hollow of the aching tooth.

Mr. Day also informs me that the well-known Devonian fossil *Spirifer*